REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1, 5-10, and 13 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 10, and 13 are independent. In this response, claims 1, 10, and 13 are amended.

All amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found on, for example, page 26, line 18 to page 27, line 16 of the specification as filed. Hence, no new matter has been introduced.

Entry of various comments regarding the claims and/or the art, in the Office Action, should not be construed as any acquiescence or agreement by Applicants with the stated reasoning, regardless of whether or not these remarks specifically address any particular comment from the Office Action.

Reconsideration of this application for allowance of all pending claims is hereby respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and following remarks.

Patentability of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5-10, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,509,974 to Hansen ("Hansen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,509,903 to Yosefi ("Yosefi"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1, 10, and 13 are independent; and claims 5-9 depend from claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the apparatus of claim 1, computer-implemented method of claim 10, and non-transitory computer-readable recording medium of claim 13 are patentable over the cited art.

The apparatus for generating a workflow of claim 1, as amended, includes in pertinent part:

...
     a workflow creator for creating the workflow by deciding upon processes required to make the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes based on the attributes designated by the designator;...

     the rules stored in the rule storage unit include: a first rule executed when output is to paper, a second rule executed when page size and paper size are designated as the output requirement, a third rule executed when a trap is set as the output requirement, and a fourth rule executed when a special color is set as the output requirement,

     the first rule being a rule in which each module for input processing RIP operation processing and printer processing is prepared,

     the second rule being a rule in which the designated size of paper is designated from a magazine as a printer processing parameter, an output size taken as an RIP operation process parameter is set as the designated size, an area for an image file comprising bit map data obtained by the RIP operation processing is reserved in an auxiliary storage, and a module for an imposition layout process is inserted and the number of pages to be printed simultaneously and a position on the paper of the pages to be printed simultaneously are calculated based on the page size and paper size designated by the output requirement,

     the third rule being a rule in which a trap processor module is inserted,

     the fourth rule being a rule in which special colors are considered in the RIP operation and in a trap processing, and the number of press plates is specified taking the special colors into consideration,

     the first to fourth rules being referred to based on the output requirement constituted by attribute values for the finally resulting matter, and

     when the workflow creator creates a workflow, the display controller displays the created workflow on the display. (*Emphasis added*)

The computer-implemented method of claim 10, as amended, provides in pertinent part:

     creating the workflow by deciding upon processes required in order to make the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes based on designated attributes;
     displaying a plurality of icons ...;
     registering an attribute indicated by a selected icon ...; and

creating a job ticket indicating content of processes required to make the image recording media based on the workflow created in the workflow creating step,

wherein the workflow creating step comprises the steps of:

reading rules, bringing processes required to construct the workflow and parameter values for the processes into correspondence with each attribute selectable for the image recording media, for creating the workflow for making the image recording media;

...

the rules include: a first rule executed when output is to paper, a second rule executed when page size and paper size are designated as the output requirement, a third rule executed when a trap is set as the output requirement, and a fourth rule executed when a special color is set as the output requirement,

the first rule being a rule in which each module for input processing RIP operation processing and printer processing is prepared,

the second rule being a rule in which the designated size of paper is designated from a magazine as a printer processing parameter, an output size taken as an RIP operation process parameter is set as the designated size, an area for an image file comprising bit map data obtained by the RIP operation processing is reserved in an auxiliary storage, and a module for an imposition layout process is inserted and the number of pages to be printed simultaneously and a position on the paper of the pages to be printed simultaneously are calculated based on the page size and paper size designated by the output requirement,

the third rule being a rule in which a trap processor module is inserted,

the fourth rule being a rule in which special colors are considered in the RIP operation and in a trap processing, and the number of press plates is specified taking the special colors into consideration,

the first to fourth rules being referred to based on the output requirement constituted by attribute values for the finally resulting matter,

when the workflow creating step creates a workflow, a display controller displays the created workflow on the display; and

the above steps are performed by one or more computers programmed to perform the above steps. (*Emphasis Added*)

The non-transitory computer-readable recording medium of claim 13, as amended,

provides in pertinent part:

> ... having recorded therein a program for generating a workflow for making image recording media recorded with images expressed by page data from the page data described in page description language, the program, when executed by a computer, causing the computer to perform the steps of:
>
> designating attributes of the image recording media constituting finally resulting matter resulting due to processing based on the workflow to be created;
>
> creating the workflow ...;
>
> displaying a plurality of icons indicating the respective attributes selectable for the image recording media constituting the finally resulting matter at a display having a prescribed screen;
>
> registering an attribute indicated by a selected icon as an output requirement ...; and
>
> creating a job ticket indicating content of processes required to make the image recording media based on the workflow created in the workflow creating step,
>
> wherein the workflow creating step comprises the steps of:
>
> reading rules, bringing processes required to construct the workflow and parameter values for the processes into correspondence with each attribute selectable for the image recording media, for creating the workflow for making the image recording media;
>
> reading environmental information ...;
>
> deciding upon processor module required to make the image recording media and parameter values for the required processor modules based on the designated attributes by referring to the rules and the environmental information based on the attributes designated in the designating step; and
>
> creating a workflow based on attributes each registered as the output requirement;
>
> the attributes designated as attributes of the image recording media in the designating step include at least one of the type of image recording media to be made as the finally resulting matter, number of items, size, variety of colors, presence or absence of a trap, and imposition method;
>
> the rules include: a first rule executed when output is to paper, a second rule executed when page size and paper size are designated as the output requirement, a third rule executed when a trap is set as the output requirement, and a fourth rule executed when a special color is set as the output requirement,

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the first rule being a rule in which each module for input processing RIP operation processing and printer processing is prepared,

the second rule being a rule in which the designated size of paper is designated from a magazine as a printer processing parameter, an output size taken as an RIP operation process parameter is set as the designated size, an area for an image file comprising bit map data obtained by the RIP operation processing is reserved in an auxiliary storage, and a module for an imposition layout process is inserted and the number of pages to be printed simultaneously and a position on the paper of the pages to be printed simultaneously are calculated based on the page size and paper size designated by the output requirement,

the third rule being a rule in which a trap processor module is inserted,

the fourth rule being a rule in which special colors are considered in the RIP operation and in a trap processing, and the number of press plates is specified taking the special colors into consideration,

the first to fourth rules being referred to based on the output requirement constituted by attribute values for the finally resulting matter, and

when the workflow creating step creates a workflow, a display controller displays the created workflow on the display. (*Emphasis Added*)

It is respectfully submitted that, *inter alia*, the limitations in the bolded portions in combination with the remaining parts of amended claims 1, 10, and 13 are not disclosed or suggested by Hansen and Yosefi. In particular, the claimed limitations teach that the rules for *creating a workflow are referred to, based upon an output requirement constituted by attribute values for the finally resulting matter. As a result, a job ticket is created based upon the output requirement for the finally resulting matter.* In contrast, Hansen does not disclose or suggest that a workflow is created based upon an output requirement for a finally resulting matter. Further, Hansen does not disclose or suggest the limitations regarding the fourth rule: "being a rule in which special colors are considered in the RIP operation and in a trap processing, and the number of press plates is specified taking the special colors into consideration," as claimed.

Hansen only discloses setting "the color of the paper to be used to blue" (column 16, lines 61-62). It is respectfully submitted that Hansen's setting the color of the paper has nothing to do with the number of press plates as used in setting a special color (e.g., color other than YMCK color), as claimed. That is, setting the color of the paper to blue and setting the special color other than YMCK color as an output requirement are two different operations or steps, making them two different rules. Thus, Hansen does not disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, the claim limitations: "the fourth rule being a rule in which special colors are considered in the RIP operation and in a trap processing, and the number of press plates is specified taking the special colors into consideration, the first to fourth rules being referred to based on the output requirement constituted by attribute values for the finally resulting matter," as recited in claims 1, 10, and 13.

The addition of Yosefi does not cure the deficiencies of Hansen. Yosefi does not disclose or suggest the above claim limitations, in particular the limitations relating to the fourth rule. Thus, the combination of Hansen and Yosefi does not disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, in combination with the remaining parts: "the fourth rule being a rule in which special colors are considered in the RIP operation and in a trap processing, and the number of press plates is specified taking the special colors into consideration, the first to fourth rules being referred to based on the output requirement constituted by attribute values for the finally resulting matter," as recited in claims 1, 10, and 13.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine teachings of Hansen and Yosefi in the manner suggested by the Office Action, and even if combined, the combination would still not satisfy all the requirements of claims 1, 10, and 13. Hence, Applicants

respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 10, and 13 are patentably distinct over Hansen in view of Yosefi.

Claims 5-9 depend from claim 1, and thus incorporate all the limitations and elements therein. Claims 5-9 are thus patentable because the claims depend from allowable claim 1 and because additional limitations are presented.

Applicants therefore submit that the rejection of claims 1, 5-10, and 13 is overcome and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 5-10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen in view of Yosefi be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Having addressed all matters raised by the Examiner, Applicants now believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application.

If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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